## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

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RICHARD L. STALDER, SECRETARY

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release: Contact Person:

November 16, 2005 Cathy Fontenot, DPS&C (225)342-0165

## DOC to Release Three Inmates to Orleans Per Court Order

Department of Public Safety and Corrections Services Secretary Richard L. Stalder advises that only 3 inmates named in a list of 76 inmates ordered released due to refusal by the Orleans District Attorney's Office by the Orleans Criminal District Court on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 are eligible for release. These inmates were charged with state misdemeanors and felonies.

Department of Corrections and the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office staff continue to carefully review such cases to ensure public safety. These reviews have indicated that of the 76 named inmates in the recent court order, 26 had additional charges to keep them from being released; 20 had already been released and represented duplicate releases including those making bond payments and 27 were not incarcerated in the Orleans Parish Prison at the time of Hurricane Katrina. Officials with the Sheriff's Office confirm that some of those in the 27 had in fact been arrested as early as last February and had already served their time or had been cleared of their charges.

Secretary Stalder states that the three inmates releasing will be released according to protocol which requires Corrections Services to deliver inmates to the Orleans Parish Prison for release.

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